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Botany.—12. On the botany of the mountains of Scotland, in connexion with their geological structure; with specimens and a map of the distribution. The range of elevation, and the northern and southern limits of species should be attended to, and any facts illustrating the geographical distribution of plants recorded. It would also add greatly to the interest of the communication if it were accompanied with a coloured geognostical map of the districts. The Essays to be written in English, French, or German.

[The subjects are rather numerous; and perhaps a fewer, with higher premiums, for some at least, might have been better. The preparations and drawings to illustrate some of them could not be made for double the amount of the premium: and many would be willing to compete for an honorary distinction who would not like to give up their collections.—ED.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

NOTICE OF AN UNCOMMONLY TAME AND SENSIBLE PINE MARTEN
(*MUSTELA MARTES*). BY ST. K. VON SIEMUSZOVA-PIETRUSKI.

In June 1836 I obtained a very young Pine Marten, which in a short space of time became so domestic that he truly deserved the admiration of all who had an opportunity of seeing him. This pretty little animal went about freely through all the rooms of the house without doing harm to any one, played in the court-yard with my Danish dogs, often sprang upon their backs, and rode frequently upon the good patient beasts after the manner of monkeys in a very comical style for a good distance. The dogs too were very fond of the Marten, and never showed signs of their inherited hatred of such animals. In time he became so much attached to my person that he followed me everywhere, even into the neighbouring villages, just as only a dog or badger would do (see my remarks upon the badger in Wiegmann's Archiv, 1837, Part II.). In these walks it was very interesting to observe how he was able to overcome his natural innate propensity for climbing up trees; for it very frequently happened that the desire of climbing up a tree seized him; yet as

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On the 30th of August the gentle Marten followed me, as he always did on an excursion, into the part of the Carpathians which is called the Potoninen. I was busied in collecting the beautiful *Carabus Sacheri* in an enchanting spot, and quite forgot my Marten, who had found a nest with young blackbirds (*Merula montana*, Brehm.) just by, and was quietly devouring them. After a fortunate booty of Coleoptera I then wished to climb a lofty hill called Paraska, but I missed the Marten and continued my way without him. How great was my joy, upon my return, after eight long hours, to find the sensible animal again in the very meadow where I had lost him!

If I was absent from home this Marten would take no food the whole day long; and when I returned showed his joy by merry leaps and caresses.

He ate everything that came to table, bread, fruit, cheese, milk, but he was fondest of raw flesh; he drank wine with great relish, and plentifully. This even hastened his death, for once he drank so much, that on the following day he was found dead on the house floor.—*Wiegmann's Archiv für* 1839, 3tes Heft.

CLANGULA BARROVII, A NATIVE OF ICELAND.

On my last visit to Iceland, in the summer of 1837, I arrived there by way of Copenhagen on the 22nd of June, and landed at a place called Ociford, situate on the north side of the island. I immediately commenced making excursions into the interior for the purpose of procuring specimens and observing the habits of those birds which we are little acquainted with in Britain. I met with eleven species of ducks breeding there, and was fortunate in procuring the eggs of each, viz. *Anas mollissima*, *A. glacialis*, *A. Marila*, *A. Strepera*, *A. Boschas*, *A. acuta*, *A. Crecca*, *A. Penelope*, *A. nigra*, *A. histrionica*. The whole of the above visit Britain in the winter season, some remaining to breed, while others retire to higher latitudes; others again we are only acquainted with as rare and uncertain visitants to our shores.

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